

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing amendments is respectfully requested.

Summary of Amendments

Upon entry of the foregoing amendments, claims 1-74 are cancelled and claims 75-146 are added, whereby claims 75-146 will be pending, with claims 75, 101, 104, 127 and 134 being independent claims.

Support for the new claims can be found throughout the present specification and in the cancelled claims.

Applicants point out that the cancellation of claims 1-74 is without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute the subject matter of the cancelled claims in one or more continuation and/or divisional applications.

Summary of Final Office Action

Claims 1-24, 27-38 and 68-74 are provisionally rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as allegedly being unpatentable over claims of co-pending application Nos. 10/798,884, 10/910,806, 10/939,351, 11/012,267, 11/115,321, 11/102,725, 11/102,726 and 11/115,293.

Claims 1-24, 27-38 and 68-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fanara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,699,502 (hereafter "FANARA") in view of Findlay et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,650,807 (hereafter "FINDLAY").

Claims 1-24, 27-38 and 68-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Fanara et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,699,502 (hereafter “FANARA”) in view of Paradissis et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,445,829 (hereafter “PARADISSIS”).

Response to Office Action

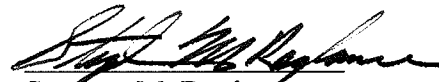
Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Final Office Action are respectfully requested. At any rate, since all of the rejected claims are cancelled, all of the rejections of record are moot.

With respect to the new claims submitted herewith, Applicants are unable to see that any of the documents relied upon by the Examiner teaches or suggests the (combination of) elements recited therein. These are additional reasons (i.e., in addition to the reasons set forth in the Appeal Brief and the Reply Brief) why FANARA in view of FINDLAY or PARADISSIS is unable to render obvious the subject matter of new claims 75-146.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. If any issues yet remain which can be resolved by a telephone conference, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,
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